

### **The Specification**

Please amended the paragraph starting at Line 14 of Page 3 as follows:

~~The invention has several important technical advantages. For example,~~  
~~one~~ One possible advantage of ~~the present invention is that it allows~~ particular  
embodiments is allowing for computing nodes to be reprovisioned on-the-fly to  
become a member of a virtual cluster for a distributed application, thereby  
possibly reducing provisioning times to fifteen seconds or less. Another possible  
advantage of ~~the present disclosure~~ particular embodiments may be a reduction in  
Information Technology (IT) hardware and maintenance costs by at least thirty  
percent. Moreover, when an application is not at a peak processing period, idles  
nodes of that application may be dynamically reallocated or reprovisioned to  
other distributed applications. Yet another possible advantage of particular  
embodiments is ~~that it provides~~ providing centralized capacity planning,  
performance monitoring, and simplified administration. Further, ~~the present~~  
~~invention~~ particular embodiments may allow for better node failure management.  
Various embodiments of the invention may have none, some, or all of these  
advantages. Other technical advantages of particular embodiments ~~the present~~  
~~invention will~~ may be ~~readily~~ apparent to one skilled in the art.

Please amended the paragraph starting at Line 20 of Page 20 as follows:

Method 200 begins at step 205, where dynamic boot engine 105  
determines that software application 114 ~~would~~ should be allocated more nodes  
108. This determination may occur using any appropriate technique. For  
example, the administrator may manually add node 108 to the application  
environment for application 114. In another example, dynamic boot engine 105  
may dynamically determine that nodes 108 may or should be used based on  
policies 132. Next, at step 210, dynamic boot engine 105 determines if there are  
any unutilized computing nodes 108 available. If there are more nodes 108  
available, then dynamic boot engine 105 selects first available computing node  
108 using any suitable technique at step 215. For example, dynamic boot engine  
105 may select node 108 based on physical location, virtual location, application  
114 compatibility, processor speed, or any other suitable characteristic. At  
decisional step 220, dynamic boot engine 105 determines if the selected node is  
compatible with application 114. If node 108 is not compatible with application  
114, then dynamic boot engine 105 brings down the selected node using any  
suitable technique at step 225. Next, dynamic boot engine 105 dynamically  
selects policy 132 based on the software application 114 at step 230. For  
example, dynamic boot engine 105 may determine that three nodes 108 are  
currently executing software application 114. Based on this determination,

dynamic boot engine 105 locates the fourth logical node 108 in policy 132. Based on the selected policy 132, dynamic boot engine 105 flashes the selected node with a pointer to a new boot image 131 at step 235 and associates virtual local disk image 134 at step 237. As described above, dynamic boot engine 105 may flash EEPROM 111 or any other suitable component. Next, dynamic boot engine 105 boots the selected node 108 using the new boot image 131 at step 240. Once the node 108 has been rebooted (or if the node was already compatible with application 114), then dynamic boot engine 105 executes application 114 on the selected node 108 at step 245 and method 200 ends.